

(Washington, DC)- Today Congresswoman Gwen Moore and Senator Herb Kohl announced that the Senate-House appropriations conference report that funds the Department of Housing and Urban Development includes \$1.4 million for economic development initiatives in the Milwaukee area. Included in the fiscal year 2006 appropriations bill was \$350,000 for the North 27th Street Project, \$200,000 for the Menomonee Valley Partners Stormwater Park, \$250,000 for the 30th Street Industrial Corridor, \$200,000 for the creation of the Bronzeville Cultural Center, and \$200,000 for the Milwaukee Tech Greenspace Initiative (MTGI).

"With these funds, we are providing for the revitalization of some of our city's most distressed neighborhoods," said Congresswoman Moore. "We're also enriching our city through the establishment of greenspace, promotion of arts and culture, and creation of jobs."

"These important projects will help Milwaukee promote job creation, increase affordable housing and clean up a blighted area," said Sen. Kohl. "I am pleased that these federal funds will help the existing community support and private partnerships that have been influential in these projects."

**\$350,000 for the North 27th Street Project** - North 27th street is the focus of the surrounding neighborhood's revitalization efforts. The West End Development Corporation, a non-profit community development corporation that rehabilitates housing with a focus on low and moderate income homeowners and homebuyers, plans to use these federal funds to purchase and/or construct a commercial project located within Milwaukee's near west side along North 27th Street. The federal funds will constitute a portion of the development costs which would include acquisition and construction costs. EDI funds for projects of this nature are critical to reducing risk and leveraging private bank financing.

**\$200,000 for the Menomonee Valley Partners Stormwater Park** - The 1200-acre Menomonee Valley industrial area is a former estuary in the heart of Milwaukee, heavily degraded through decades of industrial use. One of the most promising areas for redevelopment is a 140-acre former rail yard running along both sides of the Menomonee River. Plans for the site, call for 70 acres of new light industrial development that provide local people with living wage jobs, and a 70-acre community park that runs through the development and along the Menomonee River. Plans include a series of plantings to clean and store stormwater runoff from the light industrial development and associated roads. The park will also provide habitat for fish and wildlife along the banks, and River Points where people can access the river.

**\$250,000 for the 30th Street Industrial Corridor** - An additional \$250,000 in federal funding has been secured for the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee (RACM) for an environmental assessment and removal of asbestos from the Esser Paint Company building in Milwaukee. Located on the formerly vibrant 30th Street Industrial artery running through the heart of Milwaukee's central city, the Esser property is an immediate health concern to the neighborhood and the city at-large. Since the majority of land in the 30th Street Industrial corridor has historically been occupied by multiple manufacturing operations, almost the entire Corridor is suspected to have environmental contamination issues. Efforts by RACM and the City of Milwaukee are underway to clean up this property in preparation for the development of the site into a retail or cultural center, business park, residential subdivision, or stand-alone commercial venture.

**\$200,000 for the creation of the Bronzeville Cultural Center** - The City of Milwaukee will be receiving \$200,000 for the creation of the Bronzeville Cultural Center in the building that was previously home to the Garfield School. The Cultural Center will be adjacent to the Black Holocaust Museum and will include a multi-purpose theater with seating for up to 400 people, rehearsal space, art and recording studios, dressing rooms, set shops, meeting rooms, classrooms, and office space. The Cultural Center will ensure that the talents of neighborhood arts organizations can be showcased to the wider community, and that these new visitors will expand the potential customer base for surrounding businesses. The creation of the Bronzeville Cultural Center is part of the City of Milwaukee's greater initiative to develop blighted properties in the formerly run-down neighborhood and turn Bronzeville into an entertainment and cultural district which will offer the best in African-American music, art, and cuisine.

**\$200,000 for the Milwaukee Tech Greenspace Initiative (MTGI)** - Funding in the amount of \$200,000 has been granted to the Milwaukee Tech Greenspace Initiative (MTGI) for the creation of a recreational space near Virginia Street and National Avenue, which would be the only public greenspace for more than one square mile. MTGI, a joint effort by the Lynde and Harry Bradley School of Technology and Trade High School Commission and the Milwaukee Public School system, will oversee the demolition of the vacant and asbestos-laden Milwaukee Tech High School building, which was replaced by Bradley Tech in 2002. The funding for this project will not only serve to eliminate the environmental threat posed by the 90-year-old Milwaukee Tech building, but it will open the site in this low-income area of the city for recreational purposes to several schools and child development programs as well as to the public. In addition, the project will remove blight and attract additional customers to a growing area retail sector.

The Senate-House Treasury, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development appropriations conference report now goes to the President to be signed into law.

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